

Theme Community Meeting Notes

August 6, 2019 (1-2:30 PM ET)

Attendees

FGDC Staff

Name	Agency	Role(s)		Name	Agency	Role(s)	
Lorna Schmid	USGS	FGDC OS	✓	James Irvine	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓
John Mahoney	USGS	FGDC OS		Robin Hoban	USGS	FGDC OS-CS	✓

Theme Leads

Theme	Name	Agency	Role(s)	Addition or Proxy	
Address	Lynda Liptrap	Census Bureau	TL		✓
Address	Steve Lewis	DOT	TL	Derald Dudley	✓
Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Marcia McNiff	USGS	TL		
Cadastre	Dominica VanKoten	BLM	TL		✓
Climate and Weather	Kari Sheets	NOAA	TL		✓
Cultural Resources	Deidre McCarthy	NPS	TL		✓
Elevation	Ashley Chappell	NOAA	TL		✓
Elevation	Diane Eldridge	USGS	TL		✓
Geodetic Control	Daniel Roman	NOAA	TL/DSM		
Geology	Paul Godfriaux	BOEM	TL/DSM		
Geology	Dave Soller	USGS	TL		
Governmental Units	Dierdre Bevington-Attardi	Census Bureau	TL		✓
Imagery	Greg Snyder	USGS	TL	Tom Duke	✓
Imagery	John Mootz	USDA	TL	David Davis	✓
Land Use - Land Cover	Greg Reams	USFS	TL/DSM		✓
Land Use - Land Cover	Brad Reed	USGS	TL	John Hutchinson	✓
Real Property	Valerie Butler	GSA	TL		
Soils	Drew Kinney	USDA	TL		
Transportation	Derald Dudley	DOT	TL		✓
Utilities - Offshore	Jeff Harris	BSEE	TL		
Utilities - Terrestrial	TBD				
Water - Inland	Megan Lang	FWS	TL		✓
Water - Inland	Rebecca Anderson	USGS	TL		✓
Water - Oceans and Coasts	Patrick Keown	NOAA	TL		✓

Agenda

- ❖ Roll Call – Theme Representatives
- ❖ Theme Report Status
- ❖ A –16 Current Status & GDA Roadmap
- ❖ Data.gov, GeoPlatform & FGDC Update
 - Metadata Publishing Workflow: Improvements & Analysis
- ❖ GeoPlatform (Release 16)
- ❖ NGDA Theme Communities (What’s New)
- ❖ NGDA Inventory & POC Updates
- ❖ Action Item Review
- ❖ 2019 Meeting Schedule
- ❖ Open Discussion

Summary of New Actions

Responsible Party	Description
Lorna Schmid	Reach out to the Governance Working Group for clarification on the draft FGDC Governance plan. – Update: The draft Governance will be reviewed by FGDC following release by Governance Working Group.
Lorna Schmid	Follow up with GeoPlatform Technical Team to 1) schedule a demo of the GeoPlatform search capability, and 2) find out what is being considered the “source” metadata for the download option.
Lorna Schmid	Follow up with Marcia McNiff, Jeff Harris, Drew Kinney, and Valerie Butler regarding Theme Implementation Plans due and/or any potential changes to Theme management that may have occurred.
NGDA Theme Leads, Dataset Managers, and Metadata Managers	Wait for email from FGDC regarding test parameters and next steps. There will be an opportunity for Theme Leads, Dataset Managers, and Metadata Managers to recommend datasets and related metadata that should be included in the upcoming metadata transformation process testing. Representative examples of different metadata source types will be tested, and any that have known transformation issues are also being solicited (see the <i>Metadata Publishing Workflow Testing</i> section notes below for further details).
Theme Leads and Dataset Managers	Submit any maps you want showcased on your Theme Community page to the GeoPlatform Technical Team (servicedesk@geoplatform.gov).
Robin Hoban	Send a poll to Theme Leads to find out what the consensus is for either keeping future meetings on alternating days of the week or moving them all to the same day every month. *Note: if Theme Leads have a known conflict or preference, please feel free to email the NGDATeam@fgdc.gov with that info.

Detailed Table of All Actions

In Progress Actions	Responsible Party(ies)	Description	Action or Result
Draft FGDC Governance Structure	Lorna Schmid	Some clarification and further discussion is needed on several elements related to the proposed draft governance structure.	Action: Lorna reach out to the Governance Working Group for clarification. Update: The draft Governance will be reviewed by FGDC

			following release by Governance Working Group.
GeoPlatform Search Capability Demo	NGDA Team; GeoPlatform Technical Team	Request from Theme Community to provide another demo on best practices and tips for searching datasets on the GeoPlatform	Action: Lorna follow up with the GeoPlatform Technical Team to arrange a demo in an upcoming Theme Community meeting
GeoPlatform R16 review and comment	Theme Community, Lorna Schmid	The Theme Community is encouraged to review the new GeoPlatform Release 16 (R16) interface including individual Theme-related pages and provide feedback: www.geoplatform.gov Details about the current release may be found here: https://www.geoplatform.gov/about/release-overview/	Action: All Theme Community participants may review the new GeoPlatform interface and provide feedback to the GeoPlatform Technical Team (servicedesk@geoplatform.gov). Action: Lorna will follow up with the Technical Team to find out which version of the metadata is being referred to as the "source" download feature on those pages.
GeoPlatform R16 Theme feature maps	Theme Leads	Any Themes that would like to make suggestions for featured maps on their GeoPlatform Theme pages, please reach out to the GeoPlatform Technical Team. <i>Note: the NGDA Team is also included on those emails)</i>	Action: Theme Leads provide input to the GeoPlatform Technical Team for Theme feature maps on the new GeoPlatform release. Email the servicedesk@geoplatform.gov with any recommendations, requests, or to obtain more information.
FY17 Theme Implementation Plan (TIP) Submission	Theme Leads	Theme Leads to submit FY17 Theme Implementation Plans by 10/31/17 including the 2017 Progress Summary Table.	Past Due: Themes that still need to submit an initial FY17 Theme Implementation Plan (Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Soils, and Utilities), please coordinate with Lorna Schmid (ngdateam@fgdc.gov) with questions or estimated submission date.
FY18 and FY19 Theme Strategic and Implementation Plan Updates	Theme Leads	Theme Leads review and update FY19 Theme Implementation Plans by 10/31/19 including the Progress Summary Table. Themes that have not yet submitted FY18 TIP should do so. Clarifying Note Regarding Theme Strategic Plan Updates: We are not looking for any major revisions or updates to the Theme Strategic Plans pending details of the Geospatial Data Act implementation.	Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorna Schmid follow up with Valerie Butler to discuss the Real Property TIP Lorna Schmid to follow up with Jeff Harris regarding potential Utilities Theme changes and the TIPs Past Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Themes that have not yet submitted FY18 Theme Implementation Plan updates, please review the Theme's FY17 TIP and provide any updates needed for activities or other items. Reach out to the NGDA team for assistance as needed (ngdateam@fgdc.gov).

NGDA Metadata Improvement Initiative	Theme Leads, Dataset Managers, Metadata Managers, and the NGDA Team	<p><u>Transformation Process Testing</u> Testing of some example metadata records will begin to see what transformation processes occur from the agency source record into data.gov and then on to geoplatform.gov is, and what is being changed or possibly lost. The NGDA Team is selecting representative datasets, but Themes can nominate any that have some issues related to transformation process.</p> <p><u>Web Services and related content improvement process</u> Dataset Managers and Theme Leads review links to respective NGDA metadata records for accuracy: https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-portfolio/</p> <p>Recognizing that Agencies have different mechanisms for publishing web services, if there are any issues associated with getting web services into the metadata record, please inform the ngdateam@fgdc.gov.</p>	<p>Action: Wait for email from FGDC regarding test parameters and next steps. There will be an opportunity for Theme Leads, Dataset Managers, and Metadata Managers to recommend datasets and related metadata that should be included in the upcoming metadata transformation process testing.</p> <p>Ongoing: Emails were sent to Dataset Managers and Theme Leads with some specific findings resulting from the Web Services and Metadata Project; DSM are reviewing metadata records for <u>Titles, keywords, web services, data download and metadata formatting per the findings.</u></p> <p>Action: DSM and TL please respond to Jim Irvine's email with status or any questions you may have.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email the ngdateam@fgdc.gov for assistance.</p>
Proposed NGDA Changes	Dataset Managers and Theme Leads	Dataset Managers and Theme Leads to review and approve proposed NGDA changes.	In Progress: Once NGDA changes are finalized and reported to the NGDA Team, the recommendations will be forwarded through FGDC for final approval.

Theme Reports Status – Lorna Schmid

We've split the Theme Reports slide into two with some new content added. I'll follow up in an email but for Climate and Weather, Cultural Resources, and Elevation, the Theme Strategic Plan (TSP) did not have an end date so if we could get one, that would be great.

Diedre: Weren't all the TSP supposed to have the same date range?

Lorna/Jim: Some of them have different dates on them, and they coincided with the Agency's Strategic Plan that are managing the data.

Diane: This is the first I've heard there is a requirement for an end date. What do you want them to be?

Robin: When the TSP were originally developed, the TSP template did not include or specify a date range. So, some Themes selected their own date range. If I was able to review the plan and see that it covered a 3- or 5-year period, I noted that on the slide. But I didn't want to assume it was a 5-year plan if it didn't say so. In the more recent plans, or if the Theme used their own template, they may have selected a particular date range. But, we can follow up with

you individually and ask you to review the plan and let us know if you know what the date range was intended to be. And, they didn't all get developed at the same time, so some began in more recent years than the ones that were developed early on.

Lorna: Also, as we develop implementation plans for the Geospatial Data Act (GDA), I'm sure there will be updates to Strategic Plans based on that so we're not asking Themes to update those plans at this time. [This was more for clarification.]

For the Theme Implementation Plans (TIP), we'll work with Marcia on Biodiversity and Ecosystems. I will also reach out to Jeff Harris regarding changes to the Utilities Theme and the TIP, Drew Kinney for Soils and Valerie Butler for Real Property. Imagery has submitted their FY19 plan and it is in review, thank you.

Slide 6 describes the process for updating the FY18 TIP and a link to the template if you still need to start one for FY18:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/wp-content/uploads/NGDA_Templates/Theme-Implementation-Plan-Template_final_20180313.docx

Note: If you need a Word version of your completed TIP from the previous year with the instructions in it, please email the NGDATeam@fgdc.gov.

Slide 7 includes the instructions and link for the new FY19 template if you need one. These are due by October 31. The guidance is that we will continue with updates to the TIP as we have been doing them until the GDA implementation changes that:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/wp-content/uploads/NGDA_Templates/Theme-Implementation-Plan-Template_updated_20190613.docx

Becci: Is there a list or calendar available for all the items we need to do with deadlines now?

Jim: In the GeoPlatform NGDA Collaboration Community (NCC), which is the private community available to all Theme Leads and Dataset Managers, there is a list of activities and dates there.

NOTE: For instructions on how to join or access the private **NGDA Collaboration Community (NCC)** pages available to the Themes, please visit:

<https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-ncc/the-ngda-collaboration-community-ncc/>



<https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/>

To find the Portfolio related resources visit geoplatform.gov
Select “Explore” → Communities → Portfolio

Federal Data Initiatives Updates

Geospatial Data Act

As you know, the Geospatial Data Act passed last October. Since then, the FGDC put together a Tiger Team (TT). Not all the FGDC agencies were listed as Covered Agencies, but OMB should address that. There were updates to the Federal Data Strategy, and comments were due from agencies back in June. Another update is that FGDC recommended that OMB endorse an ongoing project led by GSA to develop or derive an authoritative list of all federal agencies that will be updated and available for use.

A—16 Update

Also, the GDA requires OMB to issue guidance within one year of enacting that law. OMB decided to update A-16 to meet that requirement. FGDC put together a team with several agencies participating along with OMB, and TT for GDA. They used the TT’s analysis of the GDA, did further analysis, and looked at the current A-16 Circular. From that, they developed a draft recommendation for an updated A-16. That draft parallels the GDA by section to make it easier to use that guidance. The A-16 covers what needs to be done for GDA compliance, and FGDC Technical Guidance documents will be developed to cover the how and provide implementation details. The draft was submitted to OMB on July 12th.

The week of August 12 we anticipate agencies should have draft A-16 and there is a 2-week period for comments. Ivan DeLoatch recommended that SAOGIs coordinate and circulate the draft for review. We will also provide an update. OMB will have 1 week to adjudicate comments. Following that, OMB will work with the original team to revise the draft for the final document. OMB will then have a month to review and accept the final document. The team did a good job for GDA analysis, but it was fast tracked, and it would be good to have some feedback.

[Update 22 August: Ivan will be sending an update to FGDC Contacts regarding the draft A-16 for review.]

GeoPlatform R16 Update

I encourage you to go into the GeoPlatform Release 16 (R16) Overview and review the release notes: <https://www.geoplatform.gov/about/release-overview/>

Looking at the release notes, you’ll see that when you go to the Resource pages for datasets, services, or maps, you can now preview objects on a map and have a link to download the

metadata. If you sign in, you can generate a map, add keywords, and save that map. We need to determine which version of the metadata you can download. It says “source” but is it the source as provided by the data.gov environment or the source from the agency that originally provided it? I’ll follow up on that.

[Update: it is the metadata record that was imported into the GeoPlatform which is most likely what is ingested from data.gov.]

WordPress templates for the NGDA Theme communities will be updated to be consistent with all other Communities on the Platform (same same plug ins and functionality). We will be meeting with the GeoPlatform Technical Team and we’ll share out more details. I encourage you to review these changes and provide feedback to servicedesk@geoplatform.gov.

[Update: Upgrades are almost complete.]

On your Theme Community pages, Jim has updated them to include the links to the NGDA Data Resource page pages. These are intended to be the authoritative resources, and we’ll be working on the governance piece of that.

Metadata Publishing Workflow Testing

The Metadata Working Group (MWG) worked on reviewing documentation to look at the metadata publishing lifecycle from Dataset Manager’s source records through the Agencies into data.gov and then to the GeoPlatform. There was also a crosswalk from ISO 19115-1 records coming from CSDGM, Open Data Format, and ISO 19115. There was also a Draft ISO 19115-1 Profile generated by the GeoPlatform technical team. Those were reviewed by the MWG with the intent to put together teams to finalize them for approval by FGDC, but then the GDA came out and that work was put on the back burner.

As we analyze the GDA and other legislation, it is becoming clear that understanding and possibly simplifying the processes around managing metadata across data.gov and geoplatform.gov, will make it easier to be compliant with current legislation. Managing the information in those systems better will reduce the burden on agencies for generating these reports. We have resurrected the regular meetings with Data.gov, the GeoPlatform and Portfolio Teams to look at testing and evaluating the flow of metadata. We will use representative examples of the various formats of metadata in use by agencies (CSDGM, data.json, 19115, etc.) and then work with the Dataset Manager to use source records for testing what transformation are being made and what formats are available to systems and users. For example, it was noted that Census ISO 19115 records are being transformed to ISO

19139. We will be reaching out to TL and DSM with candidate records to ensure that the test datasets and associated metadata we're choosing are the right ones.

Lynda: A comment – we're not intending to put those records out as 19139 so we will take another look and talk offline about that.

Lorna: Yes, we believe you are delivering 19115 and it is being transformed to 19139. We had a meeting in with data.gov and GeoPlatform in July, and there was acknowledgement that we don't really know what processes are being run on metadata as it goes through the system. If you know of issues that any agency is dealing with for records being read into data.gov and then into geoplatform.gov, let us know. We are especially interested in NGDA, but other datasets are also of interest.

NGDA Inventory and POC Updates – Lorna Schmid

We have some Theme personnel changes:

- Valerie Butler joins as the new Theme Lead for the Real Property Theme replacing Aluanda Drain.
- Brad Reed is joining as the new USGS Co-Theme Lead for Land Use - Land Cover Theme
- Dan Morton is the new Transportation Theme Executive Champion.

If anyone has any new changes they want to report for NGDA Datasets or personnel, please email the NGDATeam@fgdc.gov to report them.

Action Item Review – Lorna Schmid

We have covered the updates for these other Action Items, and the updated table will be in the meeting minutes, but here are a few reminders:

- The GeoPlatform team still looking for maps related to the Themes. Please send those to the Servicedeck@geoplatform.gov email.
- We're still working through the Metadata and Web Services Improvement Initiative and you can expect emails about that if you have items that need to be updated to meet the NGDA metadata guidelines.

Open Discussion - All

Becci: We had alternating meeting dates and times, but now that they are the same time, can we make them all on the same day of the month or do people still have conflicts?

Lorna: We can put that out as a request in the minutes, but if anyone has a preference to move to the same day of the week or otherwise, please let us know (ngdateam@fgdc.gov)

Diedre: It is helpful for them to be on different days as I have standing meetings on Tuesdays.
Lorna: We can send a poll out to see what works for everyone.

***** Next meeting will be Thursday, September 5th at 1 pm. *****